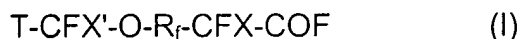


## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended). A process for the preparation of perfluoropolyethers having at least one -COF end group of formula:



wherein:

T is equal to COF, F, or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub> perfluoroalkyl;

~~X<sub>T</sub>, X'~~, X and X' are equal to or different from each other[[,]] and are F or -CF<sub>3</sub>;

R<sub>f</sub> is selected from:



wherein:

the sum n+m+p+q ranges from 2 to 200,

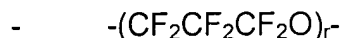
the (p+q)/(m+n+p+q) ratio is lower than or equal to 10:100, ~~preferably~~

~~comprised between 0.5:100 and 4:100,~~

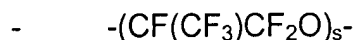
the n/m ratio ranges from 0.2 to 6, ~~preferably from 0.5 to 3;~~

m, n, p, and q[[,]] are equal to or different from each other and when ~~m, n~~ m and n range from 1 to 100, ~~preferably from 1 to 80,~~ then p, ~~q~~ p and q range from 0 to 80, ~~preferably from 0 to 50;~~

the units with n, m, p, q indexes being ~~statistically~~ randomly distributed along the chain,



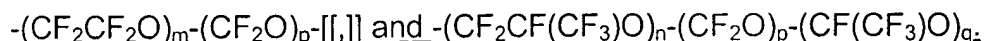
wherein r ranges from 2 to 200,



wherein s ranges from 2 to 200,

by reduction of the corresponding perfluoropolyethers containing peroxidic bonds, using gaseous hydrogen in the presence of a catalyst comprising metals of the VIII group supported on metal fluorides, optionally in the presence of perfluorinated solvents, inert at a temperature from 20°C to 140°C, ~~preferably from 80°C to 130°C~~ and at a pressure between 1 and 50 atm, ~~preferably between 1 and 10 atm.~~

2. (Currently amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein  $R_f$  is selected in ~~the group formed by~~ from one of the group consisting of:



3. (Currently amended) A process according to claim 2, wherein the metal of the VIII group is Pd, Pt, or Rh, ~~preferably Pd.~~

4. (Currently amended) A process according to claim 3, wherein the metal fluoride is selected in the group consisting of  $CaF_2$ ,  $BaF_2$ ,  $MgF_2$ , and  $AlF_3$ , ~~preferably  $CaF_2$ .~~

5. (Currently amended) A process according to claim 4, wherein the concentration of the VIII group metal on the metal fluoride is comprised ~~between~~ between 0.1% and 10% with respect to the catalyst total weight, ~~preferably between 1% and 2% by weight.~~

6. (Currently amended) A process according to claim 5, wherein the ~~used catalyst~~ amount of catalyst used is in the range 1%-10%, ~~preferably 1%-5%~~ by weight with respect to the peroxidic perfluoropoly-ether.

7. (New) The process of claim 1, wherein the  $(p+q)/(m+n+p+q)$  ratio is between 0.5:100 and 4:100.
8. (New) The process of claim 1, wherein the  $n/m$  ratio ranges from 0.5 to 3.
9. (New) The process of claim 1, wherein  $m$  and  $n$  range from 1 to 80.
10. (New) The process of claim 1, wherein  $p$  and  $q$  range from 0 to 50.
11. (New) The process of claim 1, wherein the temperature is from 80°C to 130°C.
12. (New) The process of claim 1, wherein the pressure is between 1 and 10 atm.
13. (New) The process of claim 3, wherein the metal is Pd.
14. (New) The process of claim 4, wherein the metal fluoride is  $\text{CaF}_2$ .
15. (New) The process of claim 5, wherein the catalyst total weight is between 1% and 2% by weight.
16. (New) The process of claim 6, wherein the amount of used catalyst is in the range 1% to 5% by weight.